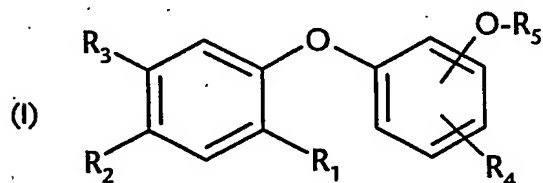


What is claimed is:

1. Use of at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



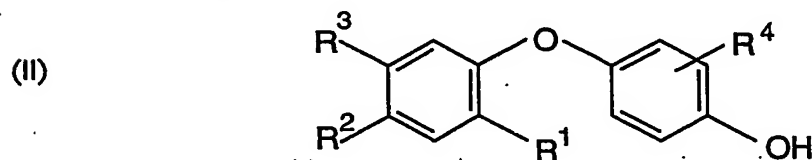
wherein

R_1 , R_2 and R_3 independently from each other are hydrogen; hydroxy; C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl; phenyl; or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

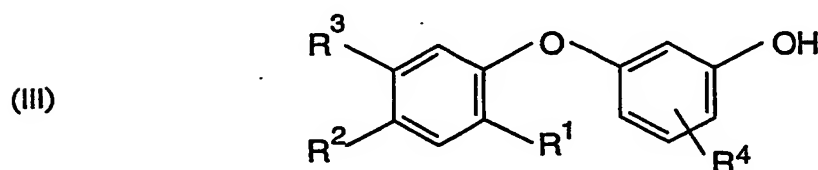
R_4 hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy-substitute C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl; hydroxy; formyl; acetonyl; allyl; carboxy; carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; carboxyallyl; C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl; C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl; or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; and

R_5 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl.

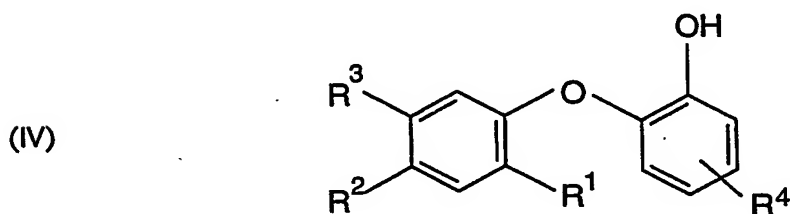
2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy, phenyl or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group, hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



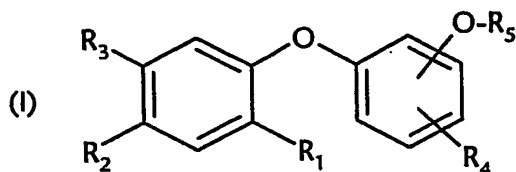
wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group, and hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group, in a cosmetic deodorant or antiperspirant composition for reducing body odour caused by the hydrolytic decomposition of steroid esters.

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (I) are selected from compounds wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, allyl, carboxymethyl or carboxyallyl group.
4. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (II) are selected from compounds wherein R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group, R_1 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, allyl, carboxymethyl, carboxyallyl or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl group.

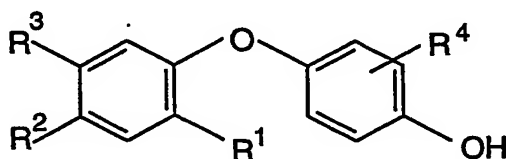
5. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (III) are selected from compounds wherein R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkyl-carbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group, R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetonyl, allyl, carboxymethyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or carboxyallyl group and R_2 and R_3 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkyl group.
6. A method of reducing body odour by means of the inhibition of arylsulfatase on the skin, wherein a cosmetic deodorant or antiperspirant composition comprising at least one arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein

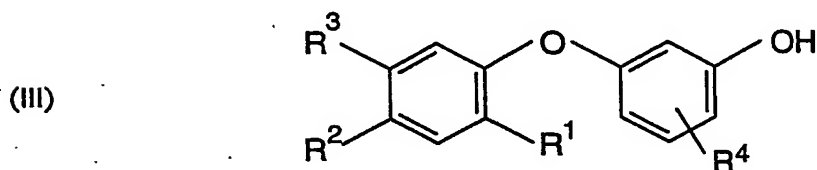
- R_1 , R_2 and R_3 independently from each other are hydrogen; hydroxy; C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl; phenyl; or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl;
- R_4 hydrogen, C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; hydroxy-substitute C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl; hydroxy; formyl; acetonyl; allyl; carboxy; carboxy- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; carboxyallyl; C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl; C_1 - C_3 alkylcarbonyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; phenyl; or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl; and
- R_5 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy; or C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is selected from hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula (II)

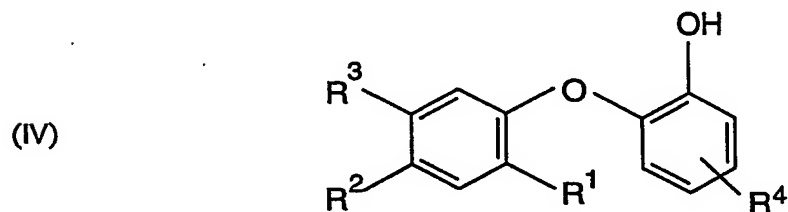


wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, C_5 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy, phenyl or phenyl- C_1 - C_3 alkyl group, R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl or C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy group and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl,

C₅-C₇cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, C₂-C₂₀alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C₁-C₃alkyl, C₁-C₃alkylcarbonyl-C₁-C₃alkyl or carboxyallyl group, hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein R₂ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₂₀alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₂₀alkyl or C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl group, R₁ and R₃ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl group or a C₁-C₂₀alkyl group and R₄ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₂₀alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₂₀alkyl, C₅-C₇cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, C₂-C₂₀alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C₁-C₃alkyl, C₁-C₃alkylcarbonyl-C₁-C₃alkyl or carboxyallyl group, and hydroxydiphenyl ethers of general formula



wherein R₁ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl or C₁-C₂₀alkyl group, R₄ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₂₀alkyl, hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₂₀alkyl, C₅-C₇cycloalkyl, hydroxy, formyl, acetyl, C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl, C₂-C₂₀alkenyl, carboxy, carboxy-C₁-C₃alkyl, C₁-C₃alkylcarbonyl-C₁-C₃alkyl or carboxyallyl group and R₂ and R₃ are each independently of the other a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆alkylcarbonyl or C₁-C₂₀alkyl group, is applied to the skin, especially to the skin of the armpits.

8. A method of reducing body odour according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used gender-specifically in respect of the amount and/or nature thereof.
9. Method of reducing body odour according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the arylsulfatase-inhibiting substance is used for reducing body odour in men.